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SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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1. The following regulations were made for the financing of the CDU convention in Leipzig, 21-25 September 1954:
  - a. Delegates and guests were granted substantial reductions in travel costs and food prices, but were expected to pay these expenses themselves. The Party obtained supplementary food rations at normal prices.
  - b. The costs of the convention were borne by the Party itself. These included the use of the Weimar-Halle at a reduced rate, and accommodations in the hotel Russischer Hof, which is controlled by the CDU.
  - c. All expenses for foreign and West German guests were borne by the National Council (front organization controlled by the SED).
  - d. The Party management obtained the funds for the convention from its own enterprises--chiefly printing establishments, since the membership dues are badly in arrears. Only about half of the dues have been collected during the last year and a half.
2. The programme of the convention was drastically abbreviated. There were only two main speeches, by Otto Nuschke and Gerald Götting. A speech by Luitpold Steidle was reduced in scope, and one by Dr. Heinrich Töplitz was eliminated altogether.

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